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Commission on the Status of Women

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Agenda item 2

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women

The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2005/48 of 27 July 2005, in which the Council welcomed the progress made in the review of the working methods of several functional commissions and invited those functional commissions and other relevant subsidiary bodies that had not yet done so to continue to examine their methods of work, as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, in order to better pursue the implementation of the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits, and to submit their reports to the Council in 2006,

Reaffirming the primary responsibility of the Commission on the Status of Women for the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,¹

Recognizing that the organization of work of the Commission should contribute to advancing the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action² and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,

Recognizing also that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the

¹ General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

² *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution I, annexes I and II.



General Assembly and the fulfilment of the obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women³ are mutually reinforcing in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women,

Reaffirming that gender mainstreaming constitutes a critical strategy in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and underlining the catalytic role of the Commission in promoting gender mainstreaming.

Recognizing the importance of non-governmental organizations, as well as other civil society actors, in advancing the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and, in this respect, to the work of the Commission,

A.

Methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women

1. *Decides* that, from its fifty-first session, the Commission on the Status of Women will consider one priority theme at each session, based on the Beijing Platform for Action² and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;¹

2. *Also decides* that the Commission will continue to hold, on an annual basis, a general discussion on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", and recommends that statements identify goals attained, achievements, gaps and challenges in relation to the implementation of previous commitments made with regard to the priority theme;

3. *Further decides* that the annual interactive high-level roundtable will focus on experiences, lessons learned and good practices, including results with supporting data, where available, in relation to the implementation of previous commitments made with regard to the priority theme;

4. *Decides* that each year the Commission will discuss ways and means to accelerate implementation of the previous commitments made with regard to the priority theme through:

(a) An interactive expert panel to identify key policy initiatives in order to accelerate their implementation;

(b) An interactive expert panel on capacity-building on gender mainstreaming in relation to the priority theme, based on an exchange of national and regional experiences, lessons learned and good practices, including results with supporting data, where available, with the participation of technical experts and statisticians;

5. *Also decides* that there will be one outcome to the annual discussions on the priority theme, in the form of agreed conclusions, negotiated by all States, which shall both identify gaps and challenges in the implementation of previous commitments and make action-oriented recommendations for all States, relevant intergovernmental bodies, mechanisms and entities of the United Nations system

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

and other relevant stakeholders in order to accelerate implementation, and which would be widely disseminated to the United Nations system, where relevant, and made widely available by all States to the public in their own countries, as appropriate;

6. *Further decides* that each year the Commission will evaluate progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions on a priority theme from a previous session through an interactive dialogue among all States and observers to identify means to accelerate implementation, focusing on national and regional activities in support of the implementation of the agreed conclusions, including, where appropriate, supported by reliable statistics, sex-disaggregated data and other quantitative and qualitative information to illustrate monitoring and reporting;

7. *Decides* that the outcome of this evaluation will be in the form of a Chairperson's summary prepared in consultation with the regional groups, through the members of the Bureau;

8. *Also decides* that the Commission will continue to discuss emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men that require urgent consideration;

9. *Requests* the Bureau of the Commission, prior to each session, to identify, in consultation with all States through their regional groups, an emerging issue for consideration at the Commission, taking into account developments at the global and regional levels as well as planned activities within the United Nations, where increased attention to gender perspectives is required;

10. *Decides* that the emerging issue will be addressed by an interactive expert panel focusing on achievements, gaps and challenges through an exchange of national and regional experiences, lessons learned and good practices, including results with supporting data, where available, and that the outcome of this discussion will be in the form of a Chairperson's summary prepared in consultation with the regional groups, through the members of the Bureau;

11. *Requests* that the Division for the Advancement of Women, from its fifty-first session, organize a panel event in the margins of each annual session of the Commission to enable a preliminary discussion on the priority theme of the subsequent session;

12. *Invites* all gender-specific United Nations entities and other relevant United Nations entities, including the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, to contribute, where appropriate, to the discussion on the priority theme of the Commission;

13. *Decides*, in view of the traditional importance of non-governmental organizations in the advancement of women, that, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolutions 1996/6 of 22 July 1996 and 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, such organizations should be encouraged to participate in the work of the Commission and in the monitoring and implementation process related to the Fourth World Conference on Women to the maximum extent possible, and requests the Secretary-General to make appropriate arrangements to ensure full utilization of existing channels of communication with non-governmental organizations in order to facilitate broad-based participation and dissemination of information;

14. *Notes* with appreciation the continuation of the annual parliamentary meetings organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union as well as the programme of side events held on the occasion of the sessions of the Commission;

15. *Invites* the regional commissions to continue to contribute to the work of the Commission;

16. *Encourages* all States to consider including technical experts and statisticians, including from ministries with expertise relevant to the themes under consideration, as well as representatives of non-governmental organizations and other civil society actors, as appropriate, on their delegations to the Commission;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on an annual basis a report on the priority theme which includes proposals for possible indicators, elaborated in cooperation with the Statistical Commission, to measure progress in implementation with regard to the priority theme;

18. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on an annual basis a report on progress in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation and evaluations of national policies and programmes, with a particular focus on the priority theme;

19. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to include in the annual report to the General Assembly on measures taken and progress achieved in the follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and the annual report to the Economic and Social Council on the review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of the Economic and Social Council's agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system an assessment of the impact of the Commission's input to discussions within the United Nations system;

20. *Welcomes* the continuation of the biennial consideration by the Commission of the proposed programme of work of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women;

21. *Decides* that the Commission, at its fifty-third session, should review the functioning of its revised methods of work, in the light of the outcome of the discussions on strengthening of the Economic and Social Council, in order to ensure the effective functioning of the Commission;

22. *Also decides* that, at its fifty-third session, the Commission will discuss the possibility of conducting a review and appraisal of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly in 2010;

B. Themes for the period 2007-2009

23. *Further decides* that:

(a) In 2007, the priority theme will be "The elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child" and that progress will be evaluated in the implementation of the agreed conclusions from the forty-eighth

session of the Commission on "The role of men and boys in achieving gender equality";

(b) In 2008, the priority theme will be "Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women" and that progress will be evaluated in the implementation of the agreed conclusions from the forty-eighth session of the Commission on "Women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peacebuilding";

(c) In 2009, the priority theme will be "The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS" and that progress will be evaluated in the implementation of the agreed conclusions from the fiftieth session of the Commission on "The equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels".